WA's maiden outright win

PERTH, Australia, Jan 17: Western Australia finally broke through here Monday to register their first outright win of the Sheffield Shield season when they beat South Australia by three wickets at the WACA Ground, reports AFP.

Chasing a target of 256 on the final day of the four-day match, Western Australia made 256 for seven, with 21 overs to

The win was built around a fourth-wicket partnership of 87 by captain Justin Langer (77) and Marcus North (60).

Langer's aggressive knock followed his 120 in the first innings -- his fourth first-class century of the season

North, 20, was playing in only his second Shield match. Western Australia's win is not enough to give them a realistic chance of qualifying for the final of the competition they have won for the past two

South Australia still have reasonable prospects of making the final.

summers.

ACA to name dream team today

SYDNEY, Jan 17: More than 100 Australian Test cricketers will gather for lunch here on Tuesday to hear whether they have made their nation's 20th century dream team, reports

The function, being organised by the Australian Cricketers' Association (ACA), brings together players like Arthur Morris of the 1948 Invincibles team and current star Shane Warne.

A notable absentee will be 91-year-old Donald Bradman, widely regarded as Australia's greatest cricketer, who shuns public appearances and lives a reclusive life in Adelaide.

The dream team will be picked by a 20-member panel of players and journalists drawn from Australia and around the world.

The panel may not need to pick 11 players -- just the 10 to join Bradman, whose astonishing Test average of 99.94 makes him an automatic selection. The panel has been asked to

consider the balance of the team, a player's impact on his times and his ability to singlehandedly influence results. One cricket writer speculated

on the likely team: Bill Ponsford, Arthur Mor-

ris, Don Bradman (captain), Greg Chappell, Steve Waugh, Keith Miller, Rodney Marsh (wicketkeeper), Ray Lindwall, Shane Warne, Dennis Lillee, Bill O'Reilly, Neil Harvey (12th

That, however, excludes such outstanding players as Victor Trumper, Bob Simpson, Stan McCabe, Allan Border, Alan Davidson, Don Tallon and Jeff Thomson.

"Maybe they could form the nucleus of a second eleven," the

writer said. "And maybe that second eleven could beat the first eleven. You wouldn't bet against it," he said.

Botham jr to try rugby with Wales

LONDON, Jan 17: England cricket legend Ian Botham's son Liam is to be picked for the Welsh rugby union training squad, coach Graham Henry said Monday, reports AFP.

The Cardiff wing is English but would qualify to play for Wales in November, and that would be the first step on the road to Botham donning the red

Botham, 22, would prefer to play for England, but Wales coach Graham Henry hopes the fact he has so far been ignored by Clive Woodward will work in their favour.

Henry names his Six Nations training squad Tuesday and has confirmed Botham will be among the 70-plus players.

He told BBC Breakfast News: 700,000-strong, soccer-mad We are going to include him if Iranian American community. And at times Sunday it he wants in the trials in two seemed as if every Iranian weeks' time. American in the area had

"Playing in a trial does not shown up to cheer the Iranian stop him playing for anyone else. It is only once you have National Team. played for the A team or the full team you cannot switch.

flags -- both the pre-revolutionary version with the royal lion England coach Woodward in the center, and the current insists he is keeping an eye on one with "Islamic Republic of Botham's progress -- and al-Iran" written in Farsi. though the winger would prefer to play for the country of his

The Rose Bowl erupted when Iranian midfielder Mehdi birth he is refusing to rule any-Mahdavikia notched the first "I am still English, so that's | goal in the seventh minute. Shouts of "I-ran! I-ran!" rang through the stadium. Sunday's match -- televised

who I want to play for -- but we will have to see what happens," Botham said



Iranian defender Mehdi Hadheminasab is about to intercept Cobi Jones of the United States during their international friendly match at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena on Jan--AFP photo uary 16.

oneisaioser



The United States and Iran played to a 1-1 draw here Sunday in the mu-

ch anticipated friendly that highlighted the Islamic Republic football team's three-match US tour.

More than 49,000 fans turned out at the Rose Bowl, most of them vocal supporters of Iran who turned the stands into a sea of red, white and

Mehdi Mahdavikia, of Hamburg in the Bundesliga, opened the scoring in the seventh minute, angling a shot past US keeper Brad Friedel off a pass from Khodadad Azizi, who was released by German club Cologne in December.

The United States didn't get the equalizer until the 48th. when Cobi Jones's cross found midfielder Chris Armas, who fired past Iranian keeper Hadi Tabatabei.

"I'm not a goal scorer, but I'll take any chance I get," said Armas, who had a chance to put the hosts ahead in the 69th minute when he was again fed by Jones but fired wide.

"I'd give anything I could to get that second chance back," Armas said. "I did the best I could with it."

The United States failed to fully avenge their 2-1 defeat by Iran in the 1998 World Cup. But coach Bruce Arena, who took over after Steve Sampson's departure in the wake of the dismal showing in France, professed himself satisfied.

Arena, whose team were bedev- who scored the only US goal in next time.

but the Iranians easily pre-

vailed in the battle for fan

Rose Bowl crowd of more than

49,000 were Iranian Americans

Iranian flags, painted their

faces in the flag's colours of red,

white and green, tooted plastic

horns and and shouted them-

selves hoarse, as the two teams

traded scoring chances across

for this afternoon match was

no accident: organizers sited

the match here in order to take

advantage of this area's

They brandished Iranian

The make-up of the crowd

They draped themselves in

support, reports AFP.

backing the visitors.

the damp grass.

lifornia, Jan 17:

The United States

and Iran fought

each other to a 1-1

tie here Sunday,

iled early on by Azizi, himself newly returned to the Iranian fold after not being selected for the national team in more than

"I prefer not to talk about my past," Azizi said when asked about his time in the international wilderness. "I was playing in Germany and had some injuries. If you are not playing it is difficult for a coach to se-

Eventually, the United States were able to rein in both Azizi and star striker Ali Daei.

"In the first 20 minutes of the game, Azizi and Daei were able to withdraw into the midfield and get some space and create some havoc," Arena said. "We released the center backs

on those two in the second half, and it made it harder for them to get to balls." He also noted Jones' secondminute attempt that bounced

off the left post "I would have been happy to get an early goal," Arena said. "I would have been happy to get a second goal as well.

Comparing the match to the World Cup clash, Arena noted that Iran's team was virtually the same, while the United States had changed dramati-

The Iranian team is much closer to the team that had in the World Cup," Arena said. "The core of players is still there, Daei, Azizi. Our team has been rebuilt since the World Cup.

Only four veterans of France 98 were on the US squad: Jones. captain Claudio Reyna, Frankie "We managed to adjust," said Hejduk and Brian McBride --

Most of the attention focused on the match concerned the political ramifications. It was the Iranian football team's first trip to the United States since the rupture of diplomatic relations over the taking of US hostages in Tehran in 1979.

"We were just excited about playing at the start of the year. Arena said of his side's first match of 2000.

"That the Iranian team beat us in the World Cup made it an interesting match-up, but we didn't concern ourselves with politics. Iranian coach Mansour

Pour-Heidari also steered clear of the diplomatic quagmire. "I think it was an excellent

game for us and the fans who showed up," said Pour-Heidari. adding that a similar side would contest the upcoming Asian Cup. "I was very happy with the technical side. We played very direct in the first half, in the second half, of course we are always playing to win, but the further the game goes at 1-1, we also know we must protect the draw."

Iran finished it's three match tour with one defeat, one victory and the draw. They lost 2-1 to Mexico in Oakland, California, last Sunday, then defeated Ecuador 2-1 at the Los Angeles Coliseum on Wednes-

Pour-Heidari said he would welcome another chance to take, on the United States.

"I can't say ves or no," he said of the chance of a return match. "But we would like to, because then we can beat them better the

Premiership

Newcastle abase Southampton

LONDON, Jan 17: Newcastle United's impressive home form continued on Sunday after they trounced Southampton 5-0 at St James's Park to climb three places in the English Premiership to 14th and clear of the relegation zone, reports AFP.

Bobby Robson's side were two up after four minutes with Scottish international striker Duncan Ferguson scoring both within 78 seconds, a closerange header after Alan Shearer's own header came back off the bar and a low drive from 18 vards.

Peruvian international Nolberto Solano added a third on 17 minutes after playing a de-lightful one-two with Shearer on the edge of the area before slipping the ball past Paul

Jones. Gary Monk replaced Luis Boa Morte with 23 minutes gone as Southampton attempted to shore up the defence and with one of their rare attacks Stuart Ripley's volley was superbly saved by United keeper Steve

Harper. Richard Dryden scored an own goal on the half hour for United's fourth when Kieron Dyer's cross ricocheted off his shin and into the net and the home side could even afford the luxury of a missed penalty by Shearer who rattled the cross-

Southampton were fortunate to limit United to only four goals in the first period as the hosts also hit the woodwork four times in a one-sided con-

Sheffield Wednesday lost 8-0 at Newcastle earlier this season and all the signs were there that Southampton could be on the receiving end of a similar scoreline as the teams came out for the second half.

But Southampton stepped up a gear to salvage some pride and managed to keep the hosts at bay until seven minutes from time when Nikolaos Dabizas's deflected shot flew past Jones for the fifth goal.

SOCOG starts saving money

SYDNEY, Jan 17: The Sydney Olympic organising committee on Monday laid off three senior managers as the first step towards making up a 55 million US dollars budget shortfall, reports AP.

Hugh Watson, who joined the Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG) as Group General Manager, Games Support in August 1997, was the most senior executive let go.

Bill Swingler, SOCOG's general manager for games services, and Geoff Bentley, the general manager for interstate football, also had their positions terminated, effective immediately.

Chief executive Sandy Hollway said other divisions and venue teams within SOCOG would take on the work done by the three executives. "We are looking to reduce

the search for savings obviously senior management is not exempt," Hollway said in a statement SOCOG announced last

costs wherever we can and in

month that it was going to fall 65 million US dollars short of its sponsorship revenue target.

The committee is expected to make savings of about 32.5 million US dollars, with the balance of the shortfall being made up from a contingency

Seismic tests for Athens Olympic village

ATHENS, Jan 17: The Athens 2004 Olympic Committee said yesterday it had begun seismic testing at the site where it plans to build its Olympic village, close to a faultline that produced a 5.9 Richter scale earthquake in September, reports Reuters.

The committee said in a statement that it was conducting the tests with help from scientists from the Athens Polytechnic, an engineering university. Such tests are normal procedure in earthquake-prone Greece.

The Olympic village is scheduled to be built in the Acharnes Valley at the foot of Mount Parnitha. The September 7 quake, which flattened several buildings and killed 139 people, had its epicentre between Parnitha and nearby Mount Pendeli.

rippled from the region since September, but seismologists say the activity is normal.

Primera Liga

Barca, Zaragoza miss chance



Barcelona and Real Zaragoza's 0-0 draw in Sunday's late game let leaders Deportivo La Coruna, who fell 2-1 at Alaves off the hook, reports

Deportivo, who have only garnered one point in their last four matches, have led for the last nine weeks and the way was set for either Zaragoza or Barcelona to claw back some ground - Zaragoza would even have gone into top spot had they '

As it is. Deportivo leads by two points from Zaragoza and three from Barcelona as the team sighed a collective sigh of relief in their attempt to win the league title for the first

Deportivo fell to an 87th minute winner by Joyce Moreno after Deportivo's Dutchman Roy Makaay had equalized the opener of Julio

Deportivo played conserva-

tively, and into the hands of a 5-3 victory over Real Oviedo. Alaves, who opened the scoring through 37-year-old Salinas Spain this season.

from the spot. Playing without usual strikers Pauleta and Turu Flores, not selected by coach Javier Irureta. Deportivo managed to pull a goal back five minutes after the break through Makaay before Moreno's 87th minute winner.

Dani skied an early chance for Barcelona from eight metres after captain Luis Figo's cross from the right was headed back by Rivaldo at the far post.

Then, at the other end, Ander Garitano miscued a first time, left-foot shot as he raced into the box at full speed.

Chances were at a premium for either side though Zaragoza did have a chance with a Savo Milosevic glancing header which failed to find the net.

Rivaldo also had a great chance from a Boudewijn Zenden cross from the left but his shot just went wide of the left hand post.

Celta Vigo meanwhile refound their winning touch with

the first eight-goal match in Argentina's 21-year-old Mario Hector Turdo hit a hattrick, and Russia's Alexander

Mostovoi and Israel's Haim Revivo added another a piece. Racing Santander's Salva hit his 21st goal of the season from the penalty spot in injury time at the end of the match to earn a 1-1 draw at home to Valencia, whose Gaizka Mendieta had also scored from the spot in

the 34th minute. Salva, the target of top Italian clubs, beat Spain's international keeper Santiago Canizares, who returned to action

are four months out injured. Jose-Felix Guerrero emulated Salva by scoring in the dying seconds to earn a 1-1 draw

at basement club Seville. Real Valladolid continued their unbeaten series, now up to seven matches, following their

2-0 victory over Numancia. Valladolid's new Japanese recruit Shoji Jo, from Yokohama Marinos, officially became the first Japanese player to play in the Spanish First Division after coming on in the 84th minute to great applause from the fans.

Debut for Primera Liga's first Japanese

VALLADOLID, Spain, Jan 17: Striker Shoji Jo on Sunday became the first ever Japanese footballer to play in the Spanish top flight when he came on for Real Valladolid as an 84th minute substitute against Numancia, reports AFP. More than 100 Japanese

journalists were at the game by two mid-table clubs which Valladolid won 2-0, screened live on television in Japan by public station NHK. Several dozen Japanese tourists were also in the crowd

first match and he received a standing ovation from the crowd when he came on for Victor Fernandez. The 24-year-old, on-loan from Yokohama Marinos till the end of the season, con-

of the Zorilla stadium for Jo's

tributed with a good pass which nearly resulted in Valladolid's third goal. The Japanese international is the third player from his country to currently play in the elite European football leagues along with Hidetoshi Nakata. who has just been transferred to

Two other Japanese players have played in Spain but not in the First Division, Soutarou Yasunaga at Lleida and Nobuyuki Zaizen at Logrones.

Venezia's Hiroshi Nanami.

AS Roma from Perugia, and

Zach gives a piece of his mind



17: AC Milan may have taken all three points off Udinese here but

Barcelona's Boudewijn Zenden (L) leaps above Martin

Vellisca of Real Zaragoza to clear the ball during their

Primera Liga clash on January 16. -- AFP photo

the Italian champions still came in for a tonguelashing from their angry coach Alberto Zaccheroni, reports

The main target after their 2-1 win was German centreforward Oliver Bierhoff, a man who Zaccheroni has always defended in the past but who missed a sitter in the closing minutes on Sunday night.

Ukrainian Andriy Shevchenko, who scored the winner, also made mistakes but Zaccheroni told reporters here: "Bierhoff's was worse - and I

Pacheco defends IBF crown

EL PASO. Texas. Jan 17: Colombian Irene "Mambaco" Pacheco retained his International Boxing Federation flyweight title here Friday, knocking out American Pedro Pena in the 11th round, reports AFP.

Pacheco stopped Pena at 2:32 of the 11th to remain unbeaten in 24 fights. The 28-year-old's first bout in the United States produced his 13th straight vicfory inside the distance, the 19th of his career inside the limit.

Pena. 21 and fighting for a world title for the first time. Youseffi doesn't think the Numerous after-shocks have kept it close through six rounds, but in the seventh Pacheco's size and sicength advantage began to tell.

UDINE, Italy, Jan told him so in the dressing rooms.

> "It was a great opportunity because (Federico) Giunti was there. Instead, he wanted to shoot and he missed. It's just unforgivable. "It's very, very serious be-

cause if you make mistakes like that, you can end up not winning the game - as has happened to us on occasions in the past." Bierhoff and Zaccheroni

both joined Milan in 1998 from Udinese, where the German striker had become the top scorer in the Serie A. However, he was not the only man in the dock on Sunday night. "There's nothing crazy about

Udinese having chances to score - but there is when one of my defenders passes the ball to one of them when we're 2-0 up," Zaccheroni fumed. "In the first half, Udinese

played better than us but we got a lucky goal," he went on, referring to Zvonimir Boban's

"But it's the first bit of luck that's gone our way all season." Currently fifth in the table, Milan have one point more than they did at this stage last season, when they went on to

lift the league title. But Zaccheroni was in no mood for optimism based on statistics and seemed to pay more heed to his side's critics.

"Milan are the reigning champions and the team who have won more than anyone else in recent years, so it's only be expected that people criticise.

"But it's true that we are conceding too many goals and it's also true that up until Christmas we weren't playing good football," he said. "The league table shows that

no doors are closed to us, but the other teams are doing better than last season and us having one point more means little."



General Manager (Planning), Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation, Adamjee Court, Motijheel C/A., Dhaka from the bonafide Suppliers/Distributors/ Dealers on free delivery basis to BJMC for supply of 1 No brand & 4 Nos non-brand pentium computer, 4 leaser jet printers, 1 dot printer, 1 UPS and 4 voltage stabilizers.

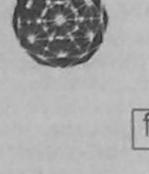
Tender will be received in the tender box kept in the office of the Dy General Manager (Pl), BJMC, Adamjee Court Annex, 6th floor, Motijheel C/A., Dhaka up to 12-00 Noon on 31.01.2000 and will be opened on the same day at 12-30 pm in presence of the bidders (if any).

Tender schedule consisting of detailed description of goods, terms & conditions may be purchased from cash section of the office of the General Manager (Finance), BJMC, Head Office, Dhaka during office hour upto 30.01.2000 on payment of Tk 100.00 (one hundred) only per set (non-refundable). 1% of the total value (but not less than Tk 1000.00) will have to be deposited as earnest money through Pay Order/Bank Draft from any schedule bank in favour of Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation alongwith the tender.

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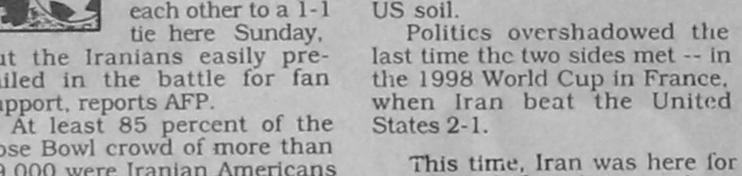
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Managing Director, NGFF Ltd, Fenchuganj, Sylhet invites sealed quotation against Tender Enquiry No 1) NGFF/LP-53/MM/RS/99/1269 dt 25-12-99 for supply of MS Angle & MS Plate 2) NGFF/LP-620/Hard/MM/1270 dt 25-12-99 for supply of Asbestos Sheet Packing etc delivery at NGFF Stores basis. Tender documents may be purchased at (1) Tk 200/- (two hundred) & 2) Tk 25/- (twenty-five) only per set (non-refundable) from i) BCIC Head Office, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka ii) BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad, Chittagong iii) NGFF Ltd, Fenchuganj, Sylhet on all working days. Tender will be received up to 11:00 hrs on 1-2-2000 will be opened immediately thereafter in public. No tender document will be sold on opening day.

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Kazi Fazlul Hoque Addl Chief Manager (Pur) NGFF Ltd.



live on ESPN in the United

States and on Iranian televi-

sion -- was the first between the

two countries to be played on

a series of "friendly" matches. They lost 2-1 to Mexico in Oakland on January 9, and defeated Ecuador 2-1 here last Wednes-US fans Stacie Toon and

Andrew Roeder felt a little outnumbered in the pro-Iranian, drum-pounding, flag-waving party outside the stadium before the game.

"There was more tension before the last one (in France).' said Roeder, 26. "Don't worry," joked Mustafa

Nejadi, a 22-year-old political science student at the University of California. "There won't be any problems as long as Iran It was a tie, and there were

no incidents among the goodnatured crowd. It appeared that very many of the Iranian Americans in the crowd would call themselves opponents of the current government in Tehran. Many have been here for some two decades,

fleeing the Shah's rule, or the

Islamic revolution of 1979, or

even the Iran-Iraq War which

Outside the stadium, Farzad Farhani distributed posters with the photo of a recent bearded student protester in Iran -- a picture that appeared on the front cover of the June issue of the London-based

Economist magazine. "He was sentenced to die for the only reason that his picture appeared on the cover of the Economist," claimed Farhani,

It was a slight exaggeration. The Economist reported last November that the demonstrator pictured, student Ahmed Batebi, had been among a group of up to ten students sentenced for their involvement in last summer's protests. He was sentenced to ten years imprisonment in October.

But Farhani conceded that most Iranian Americans had come with their families to enjoy a game of soccer. "I don't believe it's a political game today, but because there

are so many Iranians here, we are taking advantage," he said. Some US fans said they were disappointed at the lack of support for the home side. "I guess the (Iranian American) fans have a lot more pride," said high school student Jose Per-

Almost a home match domo, 17, draped in the stars and stripes. "But we've got as much energy as all these Iranian fans!

Stephanie Viars, 17, said she was "totally" disappointed in the lack of fan support for the United States side. "They should support our team." said Viars, who plays for her high

But US players said they weren't bothered by that, or by still tense relations between Washington and Tehran.

"We just knew it was the first

game of the year for us," midfielder Chris Amas, who scored the US equalizer in the 74th minute, said after the game. "It was a good game, a goodatmosphere," Amas said. "We just approached it like any

other game. The only other top-level sporting exchanges between the two countries since 1979 have

been wrestling competitions. The United States and Iran are finally moving slowly toward normalizing relation's. But Washington still maintains an economic embargo, and accuses Iran of supporting international terrorism.

and his wife flew across the country from Germantown, Maryland for Sunday's match. game will affect US-Iran relations one way or another, but added, "It's a good start."

Another fan, Abtin Yousseli.

30, left Iran 10 years ago. He



An Iranian fan cheering the players on during the friendly against the USA at the Rose -AFP photo